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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
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Office, Director of Information
Systems for Command, Control,
Communications, & Computers

SAIS-ZX

14 February 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Preliminary Guidance for Deploying Microsoft Windows 2000

1. References.

- a. AR 25-1, Army Information Management (15 February 2000)
(ftp://pubs.army.mil/pub/epubs/pdf/r25_1.pdf).
- b. DoD Enterprise Software Initiative web site
(<http://www.nawcad.navy.mil/its/enterprisesoftware/>).
- c. Product Manager, Small Computer Program web site
(<http://pmscp.monmouth.army.mil/home.htm>).
- d. U.S. Army Knowledge Online (AKO) Portal (<http://www.us.army.mil>).
- e. U.S. Army Computer Based Training (CBT) Web Central
(<http://www.armycbt.army.mil/armycbt/default.htm>).
- f. Microsoft Corporation Windows 2000 web site
(<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000>).
- g. Microsoft Windows 2000 Product Compatibility web site
(<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/upgrade/compat/search/default.asp>).
- h. Microsoft Corporation Training and Certification web site
(http://www.microsoft.com/train_cert/).

2. Purpose.

- a. This memorandum provides preliminary guidance for United States Army activities that are considering a migration from their current network operating system (OS) to Microsoft Windows 2000. Activities are neither directed nor required to migrate from their current OS to Windows 2000. **However, all acquisitions and upgrades to Windows 2000**

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(or other Microsoft products) should be executed via the Army License Software Upgrade (ALSU-1) Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) which provides a 32 percent discount off of the GSA prices as explained below and in the web site referenced in paragraph 1c.

b. This preliminary guidance is the product of the Windows 2000 Migration Working Group, which met on Fort Belvoir on January 18, 2000. The Director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (DISC4) will continue to provide guidance in a series of memoranda, as needed. Our objective is to ensure a timely and orderly migration to Windows 2000 for activities that plan to deploy the new operating system. **We will also ensure that Windows 2000 training is available in the Computer Based Training (CBT) courseware that provides training at "no cost" to Army soldiers and civilians in over 1000 courses via an enterprise contract paid for by DISC4. (See paragraph 1e.)**

3. Background.

a. The Microsoft Corporation is scheduled to release the commercial version of Microsoft Windows 2000 to the public on February 17, 2000. Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) companies, such as Dell and Compaq, will continue to install Windows NT 4.0 on new systems for the foreseeable future. Windows 2000 upgrade certificates are offered to NT 4.0 buyers and upgrades will be delivered after OEMs validate Windows 2000 on their product lines. **Buyers should acquire such software via the enterprise contract. (See paragraph 1c.)**

b. Microsoft Windows 2000 is a major new release that offers new or enhanced features over earlier Microsoft operating systems and is intended to eventually replace the Windows NT 4.0 series of network and desktop operating systems. The series includes:

- (1) Windows 2000 Professional (desktop upgrade for NT Workstation and Windows 9x).
- (2) Windows 2000 Server (server upgrade for NT Server).
- (3) Windows 2000 Advanced Server (for application and larger department servers).
- (4) Windows 2000 DataCenter Server (for enterprise mission critical server systems).

4. Responsibilities. Activities planning to deploy Windows 2000 must plan their deployment strategy carefully. Test and deployment plans must consider existing hardware and application interoperability, Defense Messaging System (DMS), and the integrated relationship Windows 2000 will have with the Army's protected Domain Name Service (DNS) infrastructure. Activities planning to deploy Windows 2000 shall follow the guidance provided in the following paragraphs when planning and executing their deployment plans.

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5. Guidance.

a. Activities planning to upgrade or procure Windows-based computer systems may select from several Windows operating systems for their system configuration. Activities should assess their existing platforms or planned hardware and software procurements against the Microsoft product compatibility lists before finalizing any hardware or software procurements. (See paragraph 1g.)

(1) Hardware Upgrades and Procurements. There are several contract vehicles available to Army activities to procure or upgrade hardware. Procurement Contract Offices are encouraged to review the Army PC-3, Portable-3 and NASA SEWP II contracts. These contracts are compliant with Joint Technical Architecture-Army (JTA-A) standards. (See paragraph 1c.) Over time, the Microsoft Corporation and its hardware vendors will phase out support for the Windows 95 and NT 4.0 operating systems thus forcing a change. Activities should consider this fact when forecasting hardware procurements or upgrades. A major upgrade or replacement of your existing Windows-based servers or workstations should include hardware that is Windows 2000 compatible to ensure compatibility with future Microsoft software releases.

(2) Software Upgrades and Procurements. The Army License Software Upgrade (ALSU-1) Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) is an Army-wide, three-year contract to purchase select Microsoft products. The ALSU-1 BPA is available to activities to upgrade their present system software environment or procure new software for a new system. Under the ALSU-1 BPA, three options for the desktop are available that can include current releases of Microsoft's office automation suite and client access licenses, upgrades for these products and upgrades for the desktop operating system. Server licenses and upgrades are also available, which will include Exchange 2000 when it is released. Procurement Contract Offices must request ALSU-1 to take advantage of the enterprise pricing options. Activities are strongly encouraged to review the ALSU-1 BPA before purchasing or upgrading systems or software. The ALSU-1 BPA vehicle guarantees the Army the best price available for select Microsoft products. (See paragraph 1c.)

b. The U.S. Army Strategic and Advanced Computing Center (SACC) is the DISC4 functional proponent for the Army's effort to deploy Windows 2000. The SACC will use the AKO Portal and working groups to facilitate the Army's Windows 2000 deployment.

(1) The Army Windows 2000 Knowledge Channel is a collaborative community on the AKO Portal that is now available to all Army military and government employees and contractor support personnel in direct support of an activity's Windows 2000 migration effort. (See paragraph 1d.) New AKO users must register for an account to access the Army Windows 2000 Knowledge Channel. Follow the registration instructions on the AKO homepage to register. Government sponsors of contractor support personnel must send an email to the AKO Help Desk <mailto:help@us.army.mil> and request an AKO account for their contractor support.

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The email must include the contract vehicle end date. Contractor accounts will be terminated on the contract vehicle end date unless the government sponsor requests an extension.

(2) The SACC will form and facilitate two Army-level working groups. Each MACOM and PEO is strongly encouraged to provide a representative to participate in, and support the efforts of each group. Working group representatives must be able to make and support decisions on behalf of their MACOM or PEO. The Working Groups provide an opportunity for command input to the Army's Windows 2000 effort.

(a) The Technical Working Group (TWG) will work closely with NSA and DISA to develop and test a standard Windows 2000 server and client configuration. Standard configuration information will be shared throughout the Army to assist system administrators in deploying properly configured and secure systems. The TWG will also architect, test, document and oversee implementation of the Army's enterprise Active Directory (AD) structure. Representatives must possess a working knowledge of Windows 2000 features to effectively participate in the TWG. The TWG will work closely with DoD, the Policy Working Group and Microsoft to build the Army AD architecture.

(b) The Policy Working Group (PWG) will ensure the Army's Windows 2000 deployment is consistent with the JTA-A, DoD and the Services Windows 2000 deployments. The PWG will work closely with the TWG to ensure the Army's Windows 2000 AD architecture and deployment is consistent with DoD and the Services plans and architectures. Representatives must possess a working knowledge of Army-level information technology policies to effectively participate in the PWG.

c. Windows 2000 training is available in several delivery methods. The U.S. Army CBT web site offers Windows 2000 CBT courses to authorized Army personnel. A complete list of courses, registration procedures and definition of an authorized user can be found on the CBT web site. (See paragraph 1e.) Microsoft Certified Education Training Centers (CTEC) offer fee-based training for new and experienced system administrators. Course fees vary between training providers and locations. (See paragraph 1h.) **NOTE: To avoid these fees, commanders should ensure that the Computer Based Training contract is used whenever feasible in lieu of (or to augment) fee-based training on Windows 2000 and other components of information technology.**

6. Near-term Issues.

a. Activities must delay implementing Windows 2000 Active Directory (AD) services on production systems until the TWG develops and validates the Army enterprise directory architecture. The Army's current protected DNS system will not support the Active Directory's Dynamic DNS (DDNS) update feature. A protected DNS software update expected this summer would enable DDNS support. Activities may tentatively plan to apply AD services on

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production systems between August and November 2000 as part of a TWG led Army-wide effort. Activities that apply AD prematurely may experience a denial of enterprise capabilities and will have to rebuild their AD installations to join the Army enterprise.

b. Activities are responsible for verifying DoD or TWG developed Windows 2000 standard configurations and security settings in an activity specific test environment prior to deploying Windows 2000 in a production environment. Activities must also ensure DDNS update settings are disabled prior to deploying Windows 2000 in a production environment. The DDNS restriction will be removed as the Army enterprise directory architecture is implemented.

c. DMS administrators must delay upgrading DMS servers and client workstations to Windows 2000 until DMS 3.0 is fielded. DMS 3.0 fielding is tentatively scheduled for March 2001.


d. Project leaders for Windows 2000 deployments are encouraged to review the Microsoft Windows 2000 Deployment Planning Guide. (See paragraph 1f.) The guide is designed to assist project teams charged with deploying Windows 2000 Server and Windows 2000 Professional. Plans should assess Windows 2000's potential impact to existing or projected architecture and infrastructure and should adequately address multi-platform interoperability, client-server application functionality, and network infrastructure compatibility.

e. There was a recent meeting between DoD and Microsoft officials to discuss DoD software requirements. As a result of the meeting, a special Windows 2000 CD with default DoD standard configuration settings may become available in the future. The Windows 2000 DoD standard configuration may be offered by OEM companies as an optional OS for DoD buyers when computer systems are acquired via any DoD procurement contract. A Windows 2000 DoD standard configuration CD may also become a standard offering in the Microsoft product line available only to DoD customers via the DoD Enterprise Software Initiative. (See paragraph 1b.) This will allow system administrators to upgrade existing Windows-based systems to the Windows 2000 DoD standard configuration. We will provide updates to these developments, as information becomes available.

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7. MACOMs and PEOs are invited to comment on this document. Please direct your questions and comments to the Windows 2000 Project Officer, CPT(P) Shawn Gresham, (703) 704-3659 or email: <mailto:shawn.gresham@us.army.mil>.


WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL
Lieutenant General, GS
Director

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